

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for determining potential licensees for a source patent portfolio comprising one or more patents, the method comprising:

devising a set of associated patents wherein each patent in the set of associated patents i) cites as a reference a patent in the source patent portfolio or ii) is cited as a reference by a patent in the source patent portfolio;

processing all of the patents in the set of associated patents to establish a set of assignees contained in the set of associated patents;

establishing a set of remaining assignees by removing from the set of assignees all assignees that are currently licensed; and

organizing the set of remaining assignees according to a ranking criteria that causes a higher ranking to be given to any assignee when the following ratio is greater for that assignee than for other assignees, wherein the ranking criteria gives more weight to assignees both i) having patents that have a reference to a patent in the source patent portfolio and ii) having patents that are cited as a reference by a patent in the source patent portfolio;

assignee's patents in the set of associated patents : all patents held by assignee.

2. (original) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising:

adding, to the set of associated patents, patents that cite as a reference patents in the original set of associated patents or patents that are cited as a reference by a patent in the original set of associated patents.

3. (original) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising:
determining a set of cited references contained in the patents of the source patent portfolio;
adding, to the set of associated patents, patents that contain at least one of the references
found in the set of cited references.

4. (original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the source patent portfolio is the set of
all patents assigned to a particular assignee.

5. (original) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising:
presenting the organized assignees in an HTML document that can be read by an Internet
browser.

Claims 6-7 (canceled)

8. (original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the ranking criteria gives more weight
to assignees having patents that have commonly cited references with patents in the source patent
portfolio.

9. (canceled).

10. (currently amended) A computer program product comprising:
a computer usable medium;

computer readable instructions embodied on said computer useable medium for determining potential licensees for a source patent portfolio comprising one or more patents, the instructions directing a computer to perform the steps of:

devising a set of associated patents wherein each patent in the set of associated patents i) cites as a reference a patent in the source patent portfolio or ii) is cited as a reference by a patent in the source patent portfolio;

processing all of the patents in the set of associated patents to establish a set of assignees contained in the set of associated patents;

establishing a set of remaining assignees by removing from the set of assignees all assignees that are currently licensed; and

organizing the set of remaining assignees according to a ranking criteria that causes a higher ranking to be given to any assignee when the following ratio is greater for that assignee than for other assignees, and wherein the ranking criteria gives more weight to assignees both i) having patents that have a reference to a patent in the source patent portfolio and ii) having patents that are cited as a reference by a patent in the source patent portfolio:

assignee's patents in the set of associated patents : all patents held by assignee.

11. (original) A computer program product as recited in claim 10 further comprising the instructions directing a computer to perform the steps of:

adding, to the set of associated patents, patents that cite as a reference patents in the original set of associated patents or patents that are cited as a reference by a patent in the original set of associated patents.

12. (original) A computer program product as recited in claim 10 further comprising the instructions directing a computer to perform the steps of:

determining a set of cited references contained in the patents of the source patent portfolio;

adding, to the set of associated patents, patents that contain at least one of the references found in the set of cited references.

13. (original) A computer program product as recited in claim 10 wherein the source patent portfolio is the set of all patents assigned to a particular assignee.

14. (original) A computer program product as recited in claim 10 further comprising the instructions directing a computer to perform the steps of:

presenting the organized assignees in an HTML document that can be read by an Internet browser.

Claims 15-16 (canceled)

17. (original) A computer program product as recited in claim 10 wherein the ranking criteria gives more weight to assignees having patents that have commonly cited references with patents in the source patent portfolio.

18. (canceled).

19. (currently amended) A system for determining potential licensees for a source patent portfolio comprising one or more patents where each patent has one or more references cited thereto, the system comprising:

means for devising a set of associated patents wherein each patent in the set of associated patents i) cites as a reference a patent in the source patent portfolio or ii) is cited as reference by a patent in the source patent portfolio;

means for processing all of the patents in the set of associated patents to establish a set of assignees contained in the set of associated patents;

means for establishing a set of remaining assignees by removing from the set of assignees all assignees that are currently licensed; and

means for organizing the set of remaining assignees according to a ranking criteria that causes a higher ranking to be given to any assignee when the following ratio is greater for that assignee than for other assignees, wherein the ranking criteria gives more weight to assignees both i) having patents that have a reference to a patent in the source patent portfolio and ii) having patents that are cited as a reference by a patent in the source patent portfolio:

assignee's patents in the set of associated patents : all patents held by assignee.

20. (original) A system as recited in claim 19 further comprising:

means for adding, to the set of associated patents, patents that cite as a reference patents in the original set of associated patents or patents that are cited as a reference by a patent in the original set of associated patents.

21. (original) A system as recited in claim 19 further comprising:
means for determining a set of cited references contained in the patents of the source patent portfolio;
means for adding, to the set of associated patents, patents that contain at least one of the references found in the set of cited references.

22. (original) A system as recited in claim 19 wherein the source patent portfolio is the set of all patents assigned to a particular assignee.

23. (original) A system as recited in claim 19 further comprising:
means for presenting the organized assignees in an HTML document that can be read by an Internet browser.

Claims 24-25 (canceled)

26. (original) A system as recited in claim 19 wherein the ranking criteria gives more weight to assignees having patents that have commonly cited references with patents in the source patent portfolio.

27. (canceled).